quantity involved was 74,018 MTs and it was offered to the exporters @ Rs. 4340/- per MT.

CBI raid on Central Warehouse, Khandwa

2269. SHRI P.K. MAHESHWARI: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether CBI has raided the warehouse of the Central Warehouse, Khandwa on the 13th August, 2002 and exposed a large scale bungling there;

(b) what action has been taken in this regard; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI U.V. KRISHNAM RAJU): (a) to (c) After conducting a surprise check at Central Warehouse, Khandwa from 9th August, 2002 to 12th August, 2002, the CBI registered a Preliminary Enquiry (PE). Action in the matter would be taken after receipt of the Investigation Report from the CBI.

Representation of claimants before Consumer Courts

2270. SHRI K.B. KRISHNA MURTHY: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Tamil Nadu Consumer Disputes Redressal Commission has ruled that only lawyers can represent claimants in a Consumer Court;

(b) whether the consumer activists say that allowing only lawyers to plead consumer dispute cases would complicate matters and would defeat the very purpose of the Consumer Protection Act;

(c) whether under the provisions of the Consumer Protection Act, a consumer in distress is not bound to hire a lawyer to represent him before the Consumer Courts; and

(d) whether Mumbai High Court has laid down that a claimant can be represented in Consumer Courts through an authorised representative not necessarily a lawyer?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI V. SREENIVASA PRASAD): (a) Tamil Nadu State Consumer Disputes Redressal Commission decided that an authorized representative of the litigant complainant-consumer not being an Advocate could not at all be given the right of audience and there is no prohibition for the party himself to represent his own case under the Act. However, the order of the Tamil Nadu State Consumer Disputes Redressal Commission has been stayed by the National Consumer Disputes Redressal Commission in Revision Petition No. 1017 of 2002.

(b) to (d) Yes, Sir.

Import of foodgrains

†2271. SHRIMATI GURCHARAN KAUR: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether foodgrains were imported during the year 2001-2002;

(b) if so, the names of the countries, quantity of foodgrains and the price at which the import was made; and

(c) whether foodgrains were also exported during said period and if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI U.V. KRISHNAM RAJU): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Quantity of wheat and rice released to exporters during the year 2001-2002 from Central Pool through FCI are as under:—

(Fig. in lakh MTs)

Year	Wheat	Rice
2001-02	39.51	19.85

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.